3/A 3-1-01

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Francesco FERRAIOLO

Filed: December 04, 2000

For: PROCESS FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF A PROTECTING AND IMMOBILISING ELEMENT OF THE MATTRESS-LIKE TYPE, AND ELEMENT SO OBTAINED

Ass't Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

ATT: APPLICATION BRANCH

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination of the above identified application and to the calculation of the fees, please amend this application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 8, lines 2 and 3, change "any one of the preceding claims" to -- claim 1 --.

Claim 12, line 1, delete "or 11"

Please add the following claim:

-- 13. A protecting element according to claim 11, characterised in that the lower ends of the bar (19) and of the foot elements (16) are secured to a plate element (18).

(V)